

Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program

Annual Report
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In April 1999, the management of the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP) was transferred from the Miami Laboratory of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR) at the University of Florida. This report describes the activities and accomplishments of the CMTTP from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

Annual Activities of the CMTTP

1. We have maintained a web site for the CMTTP [<http://accstr.ufl.edu/cmttp.html>]. The web site includes instructions on how to obtain tags and applicators and all of the CMTTP documents:

CMTTP New Policy [request for payment and new tag return address and offer of reward]

CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy

CMTTP Protocols for Handling, Tagging, and Measuring Marine Turtles

Recommendations for Activities Involving Brief Captivity with Non-Invasive or Minimally Invasive Procedures by L. H. Herbst and E. R. Jacobson

The web site also has the following two documents in Adobe Acrobat pdf format:

CMTTP Tag Request Form

CMTTP Tagging Data Form

2. We have continued this year to invest substantial time in cleaning up the computer files transferred to us. In particular, the NEWTAG database required significant effort. Many gaps in the database have been filled as a result of substantial correspondence with CMTTP participants, and many corrections have been made as errors were discovered in the database. As information became available or as information was found in the files, we were able to match the pit tag numbers with flipper tag numbers of individual turtles.
3. >From 1 April 2003 through 31 March 2004, we purchased 10,000 Inconel tags (style 681) and 80 applicators from National Band and Tag Company. In June 2003, we received 1000 tags purchased by the NMFS Miami Lab. All the tags have a UF return address and offer of a reward.
4. >From 1 April 2003 through 31 March 2004, we distributed a total of 10,000 tags and 68 applicators (Table 1). We received all required permits and project descriptions from each of these programs. The number of tags distributed through the CMTTP programs increased substantially this past year (Figure 1).
5. >From 1 April 2003 through 31 March 2004, we received a total of \$5319.20 in payment for tags and applicators, and an additional \$982.00 is promised (Table 1). These funds have been deposited in the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account that we maintain to receive payments for tags and applicators.
6. Table 2 shows the responses that we have received from participants on the allowable use of tagging data by NMFS. If no "Allowable Use" category is checked by the CMTTP

collaborator, we assume that these are "No additional use without permission" as stated in the CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy.

7. >From 1 April 2003 through 31 March 2004, we received recapture reports for 733 sea turtles. Data were entered into the NEWTAG database, original taggers of the turtles were notified, and the individual reporting the tag was sent tagging information on the turtle and, if appropriate, a reward of \$5.00 per tag. The annual number of recapture reports has increased steadily and has doubled since 1999 (Figure 1).
8. We continue to receive electronic tagging data files from some programs. These files have been converted to Access, and files from each locality for each project have been combined into one file, in particular NMFS Galveston and St. Lucie Power Plant. We plan to review how to improve the quality of these files to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
9. We reviewed individually all hard copy data sheets that were submitted without an electronic file and entered all recaptures into NEWTAG. All original tagging records were filed after their numbers were entered into FINDTAG. The number of tagging programs that only submit hard copy data sheets is still significant. We plan to review how to encourage these CMTTP collaborators to submit their data electronically to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
10. We store all CMTTP paperwork in fireproof filing cabinets. Two cabinets were transferred to us from NMFS in 1999 when the ACCSTR assumed responsibility for managing CMTTP. Because these cabinets are now full, we purchased another fireproof filing cabinet during the past year with funds from the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account.
11. The computer that was transferred to us from NMFS in 1999 for the CMTTP stopped functioning. We purchased another computer during the past year with funds from the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account.

Figure 1. The number of tags distributed each year through the CMTTP (circles and solid line) and the number of reports of recaptures/resightings of tagged turtles received each year (triangles and dashed line) since the program was transferred to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research in 1999.

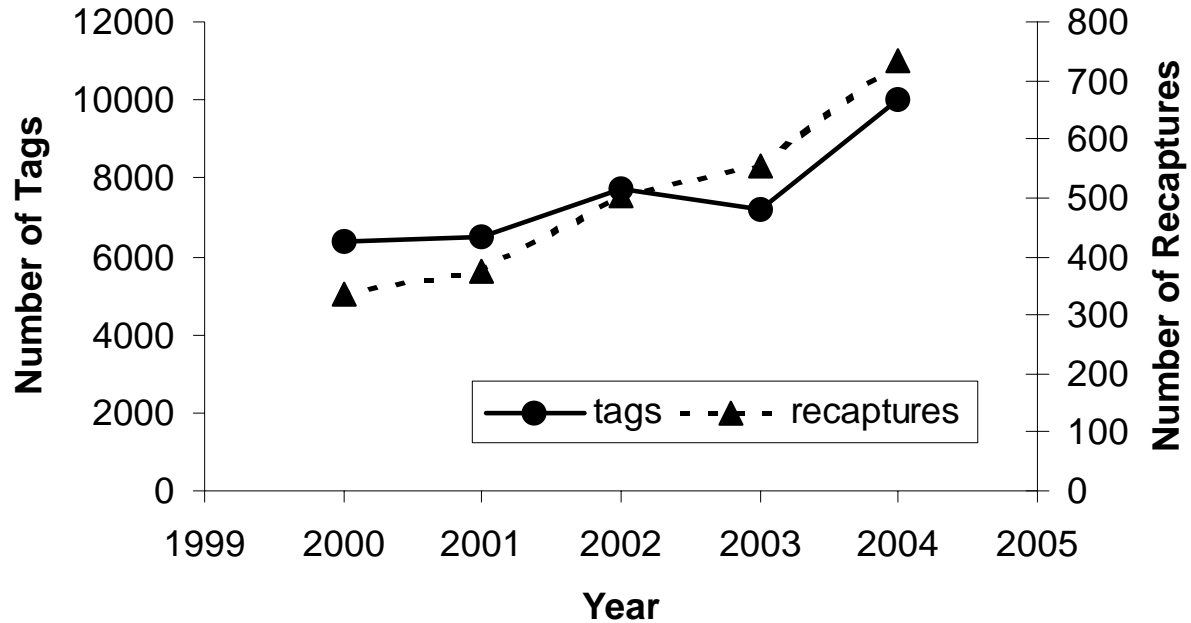


Table 1. Number of tags and applicators distributed from 1 April 2003 through 31 March 2004 with cost-recovery information. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Issue Date	Organization	Number of Tags	Number of Applicators	Cost	No funds available	Check Promised	Check Received
4/1/03	NAIB	100	2	\$106	X		
4/18/03	QURI	500	0	\$350			X
4/18/03	SCNR	400	0	\$280			X
4/18/03	USCB	100	2	\$106	X		
4/24/03	MMLB	100	0	\$70		X	
4/28/03	JUNO	100	2	\$106	X		
5/7/03	CITP	100	1	\$88			X
5/8/03	ACCSTR	200	0	\$140	X		
5/9/03	GALV	100	0	\$70			X
5/28/03	PASC	100	4	\$142			X
5/28/03	CINC	200	0	\$140	X		
6/3/03	QURI	500	0	\$350			X
6/4/03	ACCSTR	100	2	\$106	X		
6/5/03	KSCF	75	0	\$70	X		
6/12/03	CSBL	100	1	\$158			X
6/13/03	GSAF	0	4	\$72			X
6/16/03	GLPZ	1000	0	\$700	X		
6/16/03	HHMP	100	0	\$70			X
6/23/03	JUNO	100	0	\$70			X
6/25/03	REMS	200	2	\$176			X
7/11/03	COCO	200	2	\$176			X
7/15/03	ECBI	500	2	\$386			X
7/18/03	BOFT	1000	0	\$700			X
7/22/03	SCVI	200	2	\$176	X		
8/1/03	PINS	400	0	\$280			X
8/22/03	PINS	0	30	\$540			X
9/18/03	WHOL	200	0	\$140			X
10/10/03	GULF	100	0	\$70			X
10/20/03	CMSC	100	1	\$88			X
11/12/03	CROW	100	1	\$88			X
12/11/03	KARU	0	5	\$90			X
12/11/03	KARU	200	0	\$140	X		
12/22/03	SCTY	200	0	\$140			X
1/13/04	SLSTCP	100	1	\$88	X		
1/26/04	GALV	400	0	\$280			X
2/6/04	GSAF	200	0	\$140			X
2/11/04	SCNR	200	0	\$140			X
2/19/04	SCNR- SEAMAP	100	0	\$70			X
3/3/04	QURI	1000	1	\$718		X	
3/9/04	JUNO	200	0	\$140			X
3/17/04	MMLB	200	3	\$194		X	
3/24/04	CHRI	224	0	\$140	X		

Table 2. List of allowable use of data approved by CMTTP participants, 1999 - 2004. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Name	Organization	No additional use without permission	Present/ publish any data	Present/ publish my turtles recaptured elsewhere	Present/publish my recapture data of turtles tagged elsewhere
Kevin Bleck	HBSP		X		
Richie Moretti	HHMP		X	X	X
Jonathan Gorham	QURI		X		
Michael Bresette	QURI	X			
Kate Mansfield	VIMS	X			
Ross Witham	WTHM		X		
Michael Bresette	IRLS	X			
Cheryl Ryder	WHOL				
John Kerivan	CWLD				
Jerris Foote	MMLB	X			
David Addison	CINC	X			
Thane Wibbels	UNAB				
Jan Caton	JISL				
Hector Horta	PRNR				
Joanne McNeill	BOFT	X			
Larisa Avens	BOFT	X			
Ben Higgins	GALV	X			
Andre Landry	TAMU	X			
Kris Williams	SVAN		X		
Glenn Harman	CMSC		X		
George Baird	BBIO		X	X	X
Mark Thompson	SCNR		X		
Sally Hopkins- Murphy	SCNR	X			
Bruce Stender	SCNR	X			
Pearse Webster- SEAMAP	SCNR		X		
Kennard Watson	SABM				
Mark Dodd	GDNR	X			
Jonathan Aiken	CAYM				
Rebecca Bell	CITP	X			
Scott Brewer	CLMC		X	X	X
Ruth Boettcher	NCWR		X	X	X
Wendy Cluse	NCWR		X		
Red Munden	NCMF		X	X	X
Carlos Diez	CULE	X			
Linda Searle	BELZ				
Sheryan Epperly	MIAM		X		
Dennis Lee	MIAM			X	
Alejandro Fallabrino	KARU	X			
Andres Estrades	KARU	X			
Peter Pritchard	CHRI	X			
Donna Shaver	PINS	X			

Gilbert Powell	BHIC		X	X	X
Chris Johnson	JUNO	X			
Conrad Litz III	EPCT				
Mariel Labrana	MPAA				
Yolanda Leon	DMRP		X		
Mark Swingle	VMSM	X			
David Rostal	GASU		X		
Kenya Leonard	SCTY		X		
Anne Rudloe	GSML		X	X	X
Cindy Driscoll	MDNR	X			
Claudia Lombard	USVI			X	X
William Coles	USVI	X			
Trish Bargo	REMS		X	X	X
Ray Carthy/ Erin McMichael	CSBL	X			
Ray Carthy/Meg Lamont	CSBL	X			
Vincent Vera	AVES	X			
Scott Heppell	ORSU				
Jim Richardson	UNGA	X			
Brad Dawe	MLCC		X	X	X
Michelle Bauer	PMSC		X		
Tara George	ASSH	X			
Vivian Paez	CHIBIQUI		X	X	X
David Schofield	NAIB	X			
Amber von Harten	USCB		X	X	X
Terry Henwood	PASC		X		
Christopher Slay	COCO			X	X
Karen Holloway- Adkins	ECBI	X			
P. J. Deitschel	CROW		X		

Table 3. The 4-letter codes for the CMTTP collaborators. These codes are maintained in the database "WHOTAGGED".

ABIO:	Applied Biology, Inc.
ACEN:	US Army Corps of Engineers
ANMA:	Anna Maria Turtle Watch Group
AQAM:	Aquarium of the Americas
ASSH:	Ascension Island - St. Helena Hawksbill Project
AVES:	Ministry of Environment, Venezuela (Aves Island Project)
BAHA:	Bahamas, Ministry of Agriculture and Fish (Colin Higgs)
BBIO:	CP&L Brunswick Biology Laboratory
BBIS:	Blackbeard Island NWR, GA
BCAS:	Broward County Audubon Society
BELZ:	Symbios, Belize
BHIC:	Bald Head Island Conservancy
BOFT:	NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
BUIS:	Buck Island National Monument
CAYM:	Cayman Islands Dept. of Environment
CCNS:	Cape Canaveral National Seashore
CFRA:	Cape Florida State Recreation Area
CHNS:	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
CHRI:	Chelonian Research Institute (Peter Pritchard)
CHWK:	Eddie Chadwick, <u>Mickey Anne</u>
CINC:	The Conservancy, Inc.
CINS:	Cumberland Island National Seashore
CITP:	Little Cumberland Island Turtle Project
CLMC:	Camp LeJeune Marine Corps Base
CLNS:	Cape Lookout National Seashore
CMSC:	Clearwater Marine Science Center
CNWR:	Culebra Island National Wildlife Refuge
COCO:	Coastwise Consulting, Inc.
CRCH:	Caretta Research (Charles LeBuff)
CROW:	Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (Sanibel, FL)
CSBL:	Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., FL (Ray Carthy)
CULE:	Culebra Island, Puerto Rico (Carlos Diez)
CWLD:	SeaWorld of Florida
DEFW:	Delaware Fish & Wildlife
DMRP:	Dominican Republic (Yolanda Leon)
DSCM:	Discovery Center Museum
ECBI:	East Coast Biologists
ENPK:	Everglades National Park
EPCT:	Living Seas, EPCOT
FDEP:	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection & Florida Marine Research Institute
FDNR:	Florida Department of Natural Resources & Florida Marine Research Institute
FWCC:	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & FMRI
FGBS:	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

FLAQ:	Florida Aquarium, Tampa
FLPS:	Florida Park Service/ Save A Turtle
FPCR:	Florida Power, Crystal River Energy Complex
GALH:	Galveston Headstart Program
GALV:	NMFS Galveston Laboratory non-headstart studies
GASU:	Georgia Southern University (David Rostal)
GDNR:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GINs:	Gulf Islands National Seashore
GLPZ:	Gladys Porter Zoo
GREF:	Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
GSAF:	Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation
GSML:	Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory (= PANA)
GUCB:	Golfo de Uraba, Caribbean Colombia
GULF:	Gulfarium
HBSP:	Hammocks Beach State Park
HHMP:	Hidden Harbor Marine Environment Project & Turtle Hospital
HIRT:	Harold Hirth - Costa Rica (= UTAH)
HISP:	Huntington Island State Park
HSTR:	Halderman Creek Sea Turtle Research/ H.C. Fish House
INMA:	Institute of Marine Affairs
INMS:	Institute of Marine Science, Moorehead City
IRLS:	Indian River Lagoon South (Michael Bresette)
JCWS:	Johnson Controls World Services
JISL:	Jekyll Island Authority
JSCH:	Jeff Schmid, NMFS-Miami
JUNO:	Marinelife Center of Juno Beach
KARU:	Proyecto Karumbe, Uruguay
KSCF:	Kennedy Space Center, Florida (Mario Mota)
KWAQ:	Key West Aquarium/ Florida Marine Conservancy
LAAZ:	Louisiana Audubon Zoological Park & Gardens
LTIP:	Little Talbot Island State Park
MASS:	Massachusetts Audubon Society
MDNR:	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
MEDC:	Marine Education Ctr/Bureau of Marine Resources: Marine Life Oceanarium
MIAM:	NMFS Miami Laboratory
MLFL:	Marineland of Florida
MMLB:	Mote Marine Laboratory
MMSC:	Marine Mammal Stranding Center
MONA:	Mona Island Turtle Project
MPAA:	Mar del Plata Aquarium, Argentina
NAIB:	National Aquarium in Baltimore
NCAQ:	All aquariums in North Carolina
NCCE:	Wilmington (NC) District, Corps of Engineers
NCMF:	North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
NCWR:	North Carolina Wildlife & Resources Commission
NEAQ:	New England Aquarium

NOVA:	Nova Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center
OORF:	Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation
ORSU:	Oregon State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife
OWFL:	OceanWorld of Florida
PANA:	Panacea Institute of Marine Science
PANC:	NMFS Panama City Laboratory
PASC:	NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory
PAUN:	Pan American University
PINS:	Padre Island National Seashore
PMSC:	Ponce Inlet Marine Science Center
PRNR:	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
PSEG:	Public Service Electric & Gas
QURI:	Quantum Resources Inc.
REMS:	Research, Environmental & Management Support, VA
RSMS:	Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)
SABM:	St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association
SADV:	Sam Sadove
SANA:	Caretta Research/Sanibel Island
SCCP:	St. Croix Marine Turtle Conservation Project
SCNR:	SC Department of Natural Resources/ SC Wildlife & Marine Resources
SCTY:	Sarasota County of Natural Resources
SCVI:	USFWS, St. Croix, USVI
SEAQ:	Miami Seaquarium
SERO:	NMFS Southeast Regional Office
SIRA:	Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area
SJPP:	St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
SLCC:	Shoreline Consulting Co.
SLSTCP:	Sierra Leone Sea Turtle Conservation Project
SMEC:	J. L. Scott Marine Education Center
STCB:	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
STPS:	Sea Turtle Preservation Society
SVAN:	Savannah Science Museum, Inc.
TOPS:	Topsail, NC
TXAM:	Texas A & M University, Institute of Marine Life Sciences
TXPW:	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Sea Rim State Park & USFWS
UNAB:	University of Alabama at Birmingham
UNCF:	University of Central Florida
UNCW:	University of North Carolina Wilmington
UNFL:	University of Florida
UNGA:	University of Georgia
UNKN:	Unknown data source
UNRI:	University of Rhode Island
UNTX:	University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Austin
USVI:	U. S. Virgin Islands, Department of Wildlife
UTAH:	University of Utah
UWFL:	University of West Florida

VATC: Virginia Polytechnic Institute
VIMS: Virginia Institute of Marine Science
VMSM: Virginia Marine Science Museum
WHOL: NMFS/NEFC Woods Hole Laboratory
WTHM: Ross Witham Headstart (FDNR) Program
WWDL: World Wildlife Fund